

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 13, 2000

LB 1217

year...

SENATOR BOHLKE: Ah, I do remember.

SENATOR BROWN: ...this year is...it's about 40 people. I'll have to check for sure on what that number is.

SENATOR BOHLKE: So we went from 17 to 40?

SENATOR BROWN: Yes, as a result of the discussions we had on the floor here and the study that was done over the summer.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Well, I think that certainly proves the point of...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time. Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Wehrbein, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I'm going to change gears just a little bit because Senator Kristensen asked a little bit about the assessor takeover. As I mentioned the other day, we...this year, starting July 1st with the addition of Greeley and Hitchcock County, we'll have a total of 9 counties at a cost of...annual cost of \$2.2 million, and the committee is very concerned about where this is headed. If we were to do all 90 counties, obviously, we could get up to \$20 million a year plus. We did have...I had a study a year ago to look at this and see what the additional costs were going to be. It's somewhat apparent to me that we're going to have to change directions in the next...I'm proposing to do it next year. I have some ideas. One of the things may be limiting it to certain counties, smaller counties or whatever. I haven't investigated all that. One of the things we found that we...when we talked to Cathy Lang was that in some areas where counties are adjacent to each other there is definitely a gain in efficiency because we can have an assessor and assistant professor...professors, assessors in adjacent counties, contiguous counties. The dilemma we have right now is in a map, and I don't have a map, we should have brought a...I could get a map, I will have that, it shows that we're kind of spotted across the state. There is one, as I recall, in central Nebraska where there are three counties and that is working